

# BAPAUME AND 45,000 TAKEN, SAY GERMANS

## Graphic Story Tells Tale of Big Slaughter of Germans With Hot Defense by British

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, This has been another day of most desperate fighting along the whole front of the new battle zone. In fact in the northern sector there has been no cessation in the awful work since yesterday morning. The Germans have continued to hurl great forces of infantry into the conflict, depending largely on weight of numbers to overcome the increasing opposition offered by the heroically resisting British.

### Struggle Lasts All Night

On the northern wing of the offensive the enemy this morning brought up additional troops after an all-night struggle of the fiercest nature and renewed his efforts to break the British front in the region of Ervillers. To the south, near the center of the line, an equally strong attempt is being made by the invaders to extend the long narrow salient which they had pushed in south of Papaume, near Longueval—famous in the annals of the battle of the Somme, these places were again the scene of shambles in which the British machine gunners and riflemen exacted a terrible toll of death from the closely pressing enemy. Still farther south the Germans were pounding the front hard in an endeavor to push on and get a firm grip on Nesle and swing the British right flank back, while the determined defenders were battling doggedly to force the enemy back and reclaim the positions previously held by them along the river.

### Decision Is In Abeyance

The decision at all of these centers is yet in abeyance, so far as is known at this time, and the struggle goes on with unabated fury. The resistance of the British right wing has been particularly spectacular.

On Saturday the Germans essayed the crossing of the Somme on rafts in the Nesle sector, but these expeditionary forces were caught in a hail of artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, and virtually wiped out. Yesterday, however, the Germans succeeded in getting troops across in this manner and followed these advanced guards up with strong forces which pushed on in the neighborhood of Morchain. The British were contesting the enemy advance fiercely and, at latest reports were holding the hard hitting enemy strongly.

### Battle Most Spectacular

The battle today on the historic ground about Longueval was perhaps the most spectacular of any along the front. It was a day for machine gunners and infantry. The Germans were pursuing their tactics of working forward in massed formation, and the British rapid firer squads and riflemen were reaping a horrible harvest from their positions on the high ground. Notwithstanding their terrible losses, the Germans kept coming on, filling in the places of those who had fallen and pressing their attack. The British artillery in the meantime poured in a perfect rain of shells on the enemy, carrying havoc into the ranks of the enemy. In this section the Germans were operating without the full support of their guns because of their rapid advance.

### Mory Again Abandoned

In the north, in the region of Ervillers, the British last night were forced once more to abandon Mory, which had changed hands several times in the last few days. They fell back for a short distance and the battle this morning was staged largely along the Bapaume-Arras road. The Germans employed a large number of divisions in this assault, which in the early hours was held off by the British gunners. For the last four days, French refugees have been streaming back

## Cruel Canard Is Circulated About Valley

One of the most cruel canards circulated since the war started was posted in Phoenix yesterday when the alleged authority of the "New York Associated Press" an alleged dispatch was put up announcing the capture of the German Crown Prince and the slaughter of eight hundred thousand Germans. The story went on to say that all ground lost had been recovered by the English.

Impossible upon its face, the people so eagerly clutching at hope were frantic with joy until they learned of the senseless hoax. It was made all the worse because they were led to believe the news authentic because, to the casual reader, the New York Associated Press was confused with the world-famous service of The Associated Press which serves the papers here.

Of course people should not go to the corner grocery for their news when there are elaborate news organizations to furnish them truth but the harm was done nevertheless. With two leased Associated Press wires in the city people were informed of the cruel canard foisted upon them. There was not a bit of ground for the senseless and impossible "news" the alleged dispatch conveyed.

## Lines Holding Well, Official English View

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LONDON, March 25.—The text of the war office official evening statement reads:

"During the morning of March 25 our troops on the front from the Somme as far north as Wancourt had beaten off continuous and heavy attacks with complete success. Heavy losses have been inflicted on the enemy by our artillery and machine guns, whilst our few flying airplanes repeatedly attacked the enemy's advancing columns further to the rear."

"A heavy attack delivered by fresh enemy troops in the afternoon enabled them to make progress west and south of Bapaume, in the direction of Courcellette. South of Peronne our troops have been pressed back in several places slightly west of the Somme, while further south the enemy has succeeded in making some progress and has captured Nesle and Guiscard."

"French reinforcements are arriving in this neighborhood."

## French Carry Out Counters Against Huns

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] PARIS, March 25.—The French forces which are fighting to the south of St. Quentin, around Noyon, though retreating slowly are carrying out strong counter attacks and inflicting heavy losses on the Germans, says the war office.

"In the region of Noyon the battle continues with stubbornness the Germans bringing in without cessation new forces. Our troops in conformity with orders are giving ground foot by foot, but are carrying out vigorous counter attacks and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy."

"Desperate fighting has taken place around Nesle, which has been lost and regained several times. There is artillery fighting at various points along the front."

"Shells to the number of 1,375, were fired into Rheims last night and during the course of the day."

## Man for Man Gun for Gun Are Promised

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LONDON, March 25.—In a message to Field Marshal Haig, David Lloyd George, the British premier, says that the men necessary to replace those lost are either now in France or already on their way. All guns will be replaced and still further reinforcements of men and guns are ready to enter the battle.

The premier's message follows: "The British cabinet wishes to express to the army the nation's thanks for its splendid defence. The whole empire is filled with pride as it watches the heroic resistance offered by its brave troops to overwhelming odds."

LAST DESPERATE EFFORT "Knowing their steadfastness and courage whenever the honor of their country depends on their valor, the empire awaits with confidence the result of this struggle to defeat the enemy's last desperate effort to trample down the free nations of the world."

"At home we are prepared to do all in our power to help in a true spirit of comradeship. The men necessary to replace all casualties and cannon and machine guns required to make good all those lost are either now in France or already on their way and still further reinforcements of men and guns are ready to be thrown into the battle."

## Map and Dispatches Show That U. S. Army Is South of Fighting



Figure One on the map shows the French sector at the northern end of which the heightened engagement indicates the Germans are being forced southward by the stubborn British defense. Figure Two indicates that part of the British line which seems to have fallen back farthest to date.

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, March 25.—General Pershing cabled the war department tonight that two regiments of American railroad engineers are attached to the British forces on the front attacked by the Germans. Three companies of the engineers, he said, were working in the areas in which the German official statement mentioned the presence of American troops and no report is probably received concerning them.

This message, announced tonight by Major General March, acting chief of staff, definitely disposed of reports that American reserves had been sent into the battle. General Pershing said there was nothing unusual to report from the American sectors.

The dispatch follows:

American Share Small "Summary of activities from noon March 24 to noon March 25: Nothing to report but usual patrol and trench activities with some gas shelling by the enemy north of Toul. Reference to German communiques of March 24 and 25 regarding American troops, two regiments of railway engineers are with the British armies involved in this bat-

tle. The German official report tells of the defeat of the British and "their retreat via Ypres and Sully." This would seem to indicate heavy fighting far to the north of the Somme battlefield, of which no British report has spoken. There is, however, a town called Sully south of Bapaume and eastward of this place is a town known as Ypres. It is probable that these were the points referred to in the statement from Berlin.

The largest gains made by the Germans have been west of St. Quentin, where they have captured Nesle and Guiscard. These points, which are at the tip of the Teutonic attack, are more than 10 miles from the front as it stood March 21.

Engineers May Be In War department officials had assumed that if any American troops actually were involved they were engineers attached to the British forces as there had been no advice to indicate that any American contingents were to be employed as reserves.

If the engineers were caught in the German advance there is no doubt here that they made themselves felt in the fighting. When American engineers with the British near Cambrai last November found themselves in the midst of a German turning movement they valiantly joined in the battle and won high praise from the English commander.

## FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND PRISONERS, BAPAUME, PART SOMME BATTLEFIELD TAKEN, SAY HUN

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

BERLIN, (via London), March 25.—(British Admiralty by Wireless Press) "The losses of the enemy in killed and wounded are unusually heavy," today's German official statement reads. "The booty which has fallen into our hands since March 21, the amount of which is tremendous, cannot yet be estimated. It has been estimated that more than 45,000 prisoners have been taken, a number of guns captured is largely in excess of 600. We have taken thousands of machine guns, tremendous quantities of munitions and implements of war and great stores of supplies and other equipment."

"Crown Prince Rupprecht has, with the armies of General von Bulow and General von der Marwitz, again defeated the enemy in a tremendous struggle near Bapaume, while the corps of General von der Berne, General Lindequist and General Kuehne broke through strong positions of the enemy to the northeast of Bapaume."

Fighting Near Sully "In bitter fighting the troops of General Gruenert and General Stabs, coming from the east and southeast drove the enemy back via Ypres and Sully."

The stubborn enemy resistance, which had been reinforced with fresh troops, was broken in a successful battle. Freshly brought up divisions and numerous tanks threw themselves against our advancing forces along the roads leading from Bapaume to Cambrai and Peronne. They could not bring about a decision in favor of the enemy. In the evening, defeated, they streamed back again in a westerly direction.

Bapaume Taken by Germans "During the course of the night battle Bapaume fell into the hands of the Germans. Hot fighting developed for the possession of Comblès and the heights situated to the west. The enemy was defeated, attacks by English cavalry breaking down. We now are standing to the north of the Somme and in the middle of the former Somme battlefield."

The German crown prince with the army of General von Hutier has forced a passage across the Somme below Ham. His victorious troops have in bitter fighting mounted the heights to the west of the Somme. Violent counter attacks by the British infantry and cavalry broke down with sanguinary losses. The town of Nesle was taken by storm in the evening.

Between the Somme and the Oise the troops which penetrated across the Crozat canal late in the evening of March 23 have taken by storm strongly fortified and stubbornly defended positions.

for a counter thrust were thrown back with sanguinary losses. The relentless pursuit by General von Costa and General von Gayle pressed after the retreating enemy. Guiscard and Chauny were captured."

The allusion in the German official statement to fighting in the vicinity of Ypres and Sully would seem to indicate a new offensive far to the north of the Somme battlefield. There is, however, a Sully just to the south of Bapaume and three miles to the east of Sully there is a town called Ypres. It may be that these are the two places referred to in the text of the German official review of the fighting.

PETERSON WINS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

BOSTON, March 25.—Charles Peterson of St. Louis gave a surprise performance here a surprise tonight when he defeated Willie Hoppe, the champion player, 230 to 85, in the first balk line game of a week's exhibition here. Later, Hoppe defeated Peterson, 25 to 19, at three-cushion billiard.

"Don't shove, Maggie; I'll go and get you an Arizona Republican right away."



Here you have "Father" Jiggs and his wife, Maggie, the principal characters in George McManus' great daily comic entitled

'BRINGING UP FATHER'

which the Arizona Republican has secured for exclusive publication in Phoenix starting Friday, March 29th. Get acquainted with these famous comic characters and meet them every day in

THE REPUBLICAN

## Pincer Plan of Germans Fails to Work and Result Forces Big Army South Upon French

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

BATTLING for every point of vantage, giving ground only when overwhelmed by numbers and exacting a frightful toll of lives for every foot of ground abandoned, the British line in Picardy is still intact. While the German onslaught gained ground at a number of points on Monday, there was no sign of disintegration in the British forces, which at many points especially on the end of the long line of battle, are standing firm.

### Heavy Fighting In North

The German official report tells of the defeat of the British and "their retreat via Ypres and Sully." This would seem to indicate heavy fighting far to the north of the Somme battlefield, of which no British report has spoken. There is, however, a town called Sully south of Bapaume and eastward of this place is a town known as Ypres. It is probable that these were the points referred to in the statement from Berlin.

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### "Pincer" Plan Is Checked

Military observers discern in the scheme of the German attack a repetition of the German "pincer" system of attack, which was used by von Mackensen in Russia, Rumania and Serbia. This attack consists of two attacks some distance apart, which after progressing to some depth, turn toward each other, compelling the forces caught between them to fall back or be in danger of capture.

The British have foreseen this danger and have met it by first checking, then forcing the northern jaw of the pincer southward, while they have dropped back on the center and have not fallen into the German trap. The pressure of the defenders of the Somme front seems to be bending the whole German attack to the south where it is hoped its force will be dissipated.

### Two Flanks Are Holding

The French positions joined the British to the south of St. Quentin, but there have been no reports showing that the French have fallen back from their advanced positions. On the other hand, reports would indicate that the original French lines now virtually outflank the advancing Germans along the Oise river.

In the meantime the British strategy seems to be devoted to the task of meeting the attack so that it is directed no longer straight at the line, but is diverted toward the Oise, where the German advance has been more rapid.

French troops have taken over sectors of the front and have released British units for work farther north. Berlin states that Americans have also joined in the fighting, but nothing has as yet been officially reported on this point.

### Bapaume's Fall Serious

The fall of Bapaume, in the early hours of Monday, was a blow to the British but it was the result of the determination to fall back slowly all along the line that is being attacked. Official reports state that repeated heavy attacks on Bapaume were beaten off by the British who also forced the Germans back across the Somme at a number of points, only to fall back when the safe retreat of the main body of the army should be assured. While the German wedge is still moving, its progress is not alarmingly rapid, as it was in the first rush of the Teutonic progress. The yielding line, it is stated, has absorbed the impetus of the shock and has weathered the storm remarkably well. Berlin claims that 45,000 prisoners have been taken. These were probably